

August 2016

IWD State Board Disability Access Standing Committee

This is an outgrowth of strategies being implemented for WIOA and involves a greater voice and participation for individuals and service providers interested in disability issues.

Statutory Provision:

A standing committee to provide information and to assist with issues relating to the provision of services to individuals with disabilities, including issues relating to compliance with applicable state and federal nondiscrimination laws regarding the provision of programmatic and physical access to the services, programs, and activities of the state workforce development system, as well as appropriate training for staff on providing supports for or accommodations to, and finding employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Recommendations for Permanent Members of Disability Access Committee (Standing Committee of State Workforce Board)

Appointments from:

- Director, Iowa Department of Education
- Director, Iowa Workforce Development
- Director, Iowa Department of Aging
- Administrator, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Director, Iowa Department for the Blind

Representatives from:

- Iowa Department of Human Rights, Client Assistance Program
- Protection and Advocacy
- Iowa Association of Community Providers
- Provider of training services
- Business, Labor/Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Representative (Either State Board representation or recommended by State Board representative)
- Olmstead Task Force Member employment services group
- Individual recipient or family member of recipient of work force center services

Initial focus would be on Assessment of Centers, use of Technology, Auxiliary Aids, and identifying strengths/weaknesses. Communication and support of Regional Board Disability Access Committees will need to occur laying out expectations, providing resources/support/guidance. Opportunities are available to improve disability awareness with all partner groups and work with Employer Disability Resource Network as an additional strategy to message access to employment opportunities.

Recommendations for Regional Board Membership for local Disability Access Committee

Representatives from:

- Iowa Department for the Blind
- Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services
(One of the above would be chair the other vice-chair)
- Community-Based Organization
- Adult Education/Literacy
- IWD (appointed by IWD Workforce Field Administrator)
- Local business
- Union Affiliated apprenticeship or labor management position

The focus of the Committee work is not equal access, but how do we improve and increase access for all Iowans in their employment journey.